

# Benefits for Soon-to-be-Paroled Inmates Who Are Veterans

## Veterans Organizations

The majority of veterans benefits available today exist because of the efforts of national, state and local veterans organizations. The California Departments of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) and Corrections (CDC) encourage you to apply for membership with organizations such as the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Vietnam Veterans of America and many others. For contact information refer to the white pages under business listings or the yellow pages under veterans and military organizations of your local telephone directory, or log on at [www.cdva.ca.gov/directory/dirorgs\\_orgs.asp](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/directory/dirorgs_orgs.asp).

## State Veterans Affairs

CDVA administers specialized state veterans programs. For additional information call toll free (800) 952-5626 or visit the website at [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov).

## Federal VA

The VA administers federal veterans benefits. For additional information call toll free (800) 827-1000 or visit the website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

## Important Information

When applying for any veterans entitlement you will be asked to provide a copy of your military discharge document, commonly known as a DD-214. To request a copy, write to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5100. Turnaround times for records requested from the NPRC vary greatly depending on the nature of the request. For example, the NPRC Military Records Facility currently has a backlog of more than 200,000 requests and receives approximately 5,000 requests daily. Routine requests for separation statements currently require 4-5 weeks for servicing. The average turnaround time on all requests is currently 14-16 weeks however, requests that involve reconstruction efforts due to the 1973 fire may take much longer.

## Good Luck

The preceding information is provided to assist you in your transition from a correctional facility to civilian life. CDVA and CDC encourage you to take advantage of the benefits you may be entitled to and wish you success in your transition.



Presented by  
California Department of Veterans Affairs  
California Department of Corrections

*As you near completion of your sentencing, the California Department of Veterans Affairs and the California Department of Corrections present the following information to assist you in your transition from a correctional facility to civilian life.*

## State Veterans Benefits

The State of California provides numerous benefits to eligible men and women veterans including parolees who are veterans. The following is a partial list of those benefits:

- A full range of employment services through Employment Development Department Job Service sites
- Special provisions allowing veterans to receive preference in employment testing for open and open non-promotional entrance examinations with the State of California
- Residency in the Veterans Home of California, providing care for aged and disabled veterans in Yountville, Barstow or Chula Vista
- Veterans license plates for cars, trucks, vans, trailers and motorcycles
- Access to the California Women Veterans Roster, connecting women veterans to various resources and benefits
- Low cost financing for farms and homes through Cal-Vet. For current interest rates call (800) 952-LOAN (5626)

## Additional Benefits

California provides additional benefits to veterans who have service-connected

disabilities as determined by the U.S. Departments of Defense or Veterans Affairs (VA) including:

- A Tuition and Fee Waiver Program for eligible children, spouses and survivors at community college, state university and University of California campuses
- Eligibility for your business to become a state-certified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise, eligible for certain competitive considerations in the public contract process
- Property and vehicle tax exemptions for eligible veterans and survivors
- Discounts through the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Fish and Game are available to veterans with a 50 percent VA disability rating

## County Veteran Services

You may be entitled to the preceding as well as other federal, state and local veterans benefits. To determine your eligibility, contact the county veteran services office (CVSO) in your county. They provide services to veterans at no cost. For the CVSO nearest you, log on at [www.cacvso.org/contacts.htm](http://www.cacvso.org/contacts.htm) or refer to the white pages of your local telephone directory under county government offices.